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Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10
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R 251356Z JUL 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6496
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSH BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, IZ
SUBJECT: IRAQI PAN-ARAB PROPOSAL FOR BELGRADE NAM MEETING

REF: STATE 178240

1. PRESS REPORTS OF A FEW DAYS AGO MENTIONED A CONVOCATION BY THE MFA OF ALL ARAB AMBASSADORS FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING AN IRAQI PROPOSAL CONCERNING THE JULY NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS MEETING IN BELGRADE. THE PROPOSAL WAS ALLEGEDLY DESIGNED TO PROVIDE THE BASIS FOR A UNIFIED ARAB POSITION AT THE MEETING, ON THE SUBJECTS OF ISRAEL AND THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, WHICH COULD BE ACCEPTED BY ALL THE NAM FOREIGN MINISTERS.

2. THE REACTION OF MOST ARAB AMBASSADORS PREDICTABLY RANGES FROM DISINTEREST TO APATHY, AND SOME EVIDENTLY
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HAVE NOT YET EVEN READ IT. THE GENERAL CONSENSUS IS THAT ANYTHING IRAQ PROPOSES IS NOT LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED BY VERY MANY ARAB STATES, LET ALONG ALL OF THEM. THERE IS ALSO SOME CONFUSION AS TO THE GENESIS OF THE PAPER, AT LEAST ONE AMBASSADOR BEING QUITE CERTAIN HE HAS SEEN ESSENTIALLY THE SAME PAPER SEVERAL WEEKS AGO.

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3. THE PROPOSAL IS VIEWED AS RELATIVELY MILD IN SOME
QUARTERS, CONSIDERING THE SOURCE. A BRIEF LOOK AT THE
COPY WE FINALLY OBTAINED INDICATES THAT THE LANGUAGE IS
NOT IN THE DIATRIBE CATEGORY, BUT THE GENERAL THRUST IS
MORE-OR-LESS HARD LINE: TOTAL WITHDRAWAL, RECOGNITION OF
THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE, ESTABLISHMENT
OF A NATIONAL STATE IN PALESTINE, RECOGNITION OF THE PLO AS
THE ONLY LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE,
SUPPORT FOR THE DRAFT PROPOSAL OF THE 32ND GA SESSION
CALLING FOR ARMS EMBARGO ON ISRAEL. THE U.S. IS NAME
REPEATEDLY AS ONE OF THE PRINCIPAL SOURCES OF THE ARABA
ISRAELI PROBLEM, AND IS CRITICIZED FOR THREATENING TO USE
FORCE AGAINST OIL-EXPORTING COUNTRIES. ISRAEL IS CONDEMNED
FOR RACISM,
COLONIALISM, FORCED LABOR, ILLEGAL
EXPLOITATION, VARIOUS OTHER VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ETC.

4. COMMENT: USINT CONCURS WITH THE ASSESSMENT THAT
THE IRAQI PAPER WILL NOT FIND PAN-ARAB ACCEPTANCE, BUT
IT APPEARS TO CONTAIN THE SORT OF LANGUAGE SOME STATES AT
LEAST WILL SUPPORT. IT IS INTERESTING THAT THE GOI IS TRYING
TO BUILD A CONSENSUS AT THIS LATE STAGE, AFTER ALL THE
EFFORTS EXPENDED IN HYPER-REJECTIONISM. THERE IS AN
AURA OF UNREALITY ABOUT THE WHOLE EXERCISE AS SEEN
FROM HERE, BUT THEATMOSPHERE IN BELGRADE MAY BE QUITE
DIFFERENT. THE IRAQIS MAY PROPOSE THEIR PAPER FOR ADOPTION
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EVEN IF IT IS NOT BACKED BY ALL ARABS.
PECK

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